



Rock River Reflections

A publication of the Rock River Coalition in cooperation with the Rock River Stormwater Group and the University of Wisconsin-Extension

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2015 Wetlands Webinars

The Rock River Coalition and the Environmental Law Institute announce the line-up for their 2015 webinar series:

Wetlands, Wildlife Habitat and Flood Hazards in the Rock River Basin.

The webinars are designed for wetlands, disaster management professionals, policy makers, but everyone is invited to participate in these free programs aimed to promote collaboration to restore wetlands and floodplains in order to mitigate flood hazards in the Rock River Basin.

The series premieres Thurs. August 6, at 3pm. Marla Stelk, Policy Analyst for the Association of State Wetlands Managers, (ASWM) will present: **Why Wetland Restorations Fail: Lessons Learned.** This webinar will summarize key findings and recommendations from an ASWM Work Group study to improve restoration outcomes.

The second webinar takes place Thursday, September 17, at 3pm and features Roxanne Gray, mitigation sector specialist with Wisconsin Emergency Management, and Ronald Flanagan, CFM, principal planner of Flanagan & Associates, LLC, a land use planning consulting firm based in Tulsa.

Roxanne's will discuss **The Rock River Flood Inundation Mapping.** the first to be completed in Wisconsin.

Flood inundation maps are critical to flood emergency management planning and implementation as well as flood risk reduction.

Ronald Flanagan will speak on **Tulsa's innovative floodplain management program** and the public participation, and support, he was able to garner to fund it.

October's show, date yet to be set, will feature David Fowler and Kyle Magyera.

Fowler, senior project manager with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, will demonstrate how stormwater management

Once a month informative webinars will be held on the following topics:

- Why Wetland Restorations Fail
- Rock River Flood Inundation Mapping
- Stormwater Management for Flood Hazard Management and Wetland Protection
- Model Wetlands Ordinances

can contribute successfully toward both flood hazard management and wetland protection. He will focus on larger communities that have a Metropolitan Stormwater Sewerage System (MS4) permit.

Kyle Magyera, policy specialist for Wisconsin Wetlands Association will present on **model wetlands ordinances for citizens and governing bodies.**

Writing ordinances can be complex and intimidating, but help exists in the form of templates that can be adapted to fit the circumstances of specific geographies and communities instead of written from scratch. Magyera is one of the state's foremost experts on the topic and will give a range of options and examples for those wishing to protect the

wetlands in their communities.

The final show, to air Thursday, November 12 at 3pm, will feature Rebecca Kihlslinger, science and policy analyst, and colleagues from the University of North Carolina Institute for the Environment. The title of her talk will be **Floodplain Acquisition Programs: Improving Community Resilience and Achieving Habitat Benefits.** Another feature of this presentation will be on how to engage local residents and vulnerable communities.

Registration for the programs will be opening soon. More information will be found on Rock River Coalition's website: www.rockrivercoalition.org

To be sure to get the link to register, send an email to kihlslinger@eli.org with the subject "wetlands registration request".



Learn how land that frequently floods can be converted into wetlands with multiple benefits including habitat, pollution control and flood hazard prevention during these webinars.

Participants will also learn how to use ordinances and management techniques for positive results.

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Rock River Coalition President's Message

I would like to start this message with a big "thank you" to our immediate past president, Patricia Cicero. Patricia has served the Coalition for many years including the past three as President. She has a passion for the environment and for improving conditions in the Rock River Basin. I'm sure I speak for the entire board when I say that I'm happy she plans to remain active in the Coalition.

As the current president, I'm most excited about promoting the water quality aspects of our Mission. I spent the best part of my youth swimming, fishing, and paddling Michigan waters. My career focus has been on water quality. After 25 years in the Rock River Basin my husband and I finally purchased kayaks, and we are looking forward to "connecting" more with our local waters.

Our annual meeting and awards banquet

this past May at the Cam Rock Cafe was a great success. Scott Taylor presented the results of the Coalition's grant-funded project to identify restorable wetlands. Scott and his team started with the WDNR's potentially restorable wetland maps and then used GIS-based property and other maps combined with field verifications to determine which ones were the best candidates for restoration. Such restorations would improve habitat and water quality. The restorations could generate phosphorus water quality trading credits or could be part of a phosphorus watershed adaptive management plan to help with Rock River Recovery efforts. The initial study area was near the Horicon Marsh and the process is transferable to other parts of the basin and state.

Coalition activities for the next several months include

continued stream monitoring by volunteers led by our talented Coordinator, Nancy Sheehan. This program provides valuable data for water quality decision-making and helps connect citizens to their local water resources, raising awareness. This program relies heavily on membership dues and donations; if you have not yet renewed your 2015 membership or would like to make a donation, please do soon!

Also around the corner is the Great Rock River Sweep on September 12, 2015 (see <http://www.rockriversweep.org/>). There will be several events in our Basin on this date, as noted elsewhere in this newsletter.

Have a wonderful summer,
Jane Carlson, RRC President



*Our stream monitoring program in action - Wes Enterline, Sustainability Coordinator, and Michaela Borkovec, Environmental Science major, take phosphorous sample at Bluff Creek in Walworth County.
Photo by Eric Compas*



Wisconsin Water Star Program Suspended

Interested Applicants Encouraged to Check Out New Web Based Assessment Tool - EcoScore



The Wisconsin Water Star Program (WWS) has been suspended indefinitely while the UW-Extension Natural Resources Education Program evaluates their program priorities following recent cuts to the University of Wisconsin System.

Since its origin in 2010, WWS has provided

municipalities and counties with a free, comprehensive environmental assessment tool designed to help them manage their local water resources.

Municipalities that are interested in self-assessing their natural resource protection efforts are encouraged to check out a new web-based environmental assessment tool developed by Michigan State University's Institute for Water Research called EcoScore which is part of the Great Lakes Clean Communities Network.

Andy Yencha, who coordinated WWS for the last 4 years, recently resigned from UW-Extension to become the Land Manager for the Lynden Sculpture Garden in River Hills Wisconsin. There are no plans to refill his position at this time.

WWS was initiated through Town and Country R, C & D as the "River Friendly City Program" focused on thirteen counties in southeast Wisconsin. As it evolved, the Rock River Coalition agreed to develop and pilot the initiative which included renaming the program Wisconsin Water Star.

Program development took several years and involved scores of local, state and federal advisors as well as consultants and other professionals in developing the comprehensive questionnaire municipalities' used to score their water resource management performance.

State-wide, 30 communities have become Water Stars. The program leveraged the reward of positive recognition as either a Bronze, Silver or Gold Water Star as an incentive to encourage municipalities to complete the online application and, once they achieved a ranking, to remain on their current path of high achievement.

Then, by honoring and promoting their good work within Wisconsin's local government networks through webinars and other outreach efforts, WWS inspired other communities to also improve their water resource management efforts.

Water Star Communities in the Rock River Basin include: the Counties of Dane, Waukesha and Walworth; the Cities of Beloit, Fitchburg, Middleton, Monona, Oconomowoc, Sun Prairie, Watertown, Whitewater; and the Villages of DeForest and Johnson Creek. Thank you for protecting Wisconsin's water.

The Rock River Coalition was instrumental in establishing the Water Star Program. We received more than \$40,000 from DNR River Protection Grants and other donations to fund a needs assessment and the robust on-line application.

We hope that UW-Extension and the Department of Natural Resources will continue to support this program, or a successor, as an important component of its urban water quality education programs.



Mission

"To educate and bring together people of diverse interests to protect and improve the economic, environmental, cultural, and recreational resources of the Rock River Basin in Wisconsin"

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A letter-sized color version of this newsletter is available at www.rockrivercoalition.org.

Sign up for a monthly email update at <https://lists.uwex.edu/mailman/listinfo/rock-river-basin-update>.

Contact Marie Rubietta at marier@jeffersoncountywi.gov if you'd prefer a pdf of the newsletter emailed to you.

RRC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, providing equal opportunity in employment & programming.

TTY: 711 for Wisconsin Relay

If you need special accommodation for programs please contact the RRC at least two weeks in advance.

Rock River National Water Trail



The National Park Service (NPS) held the first National Water Trails Forum in Ann Arbor, Michigan at the end of June. Representatives from the Rock River Water Trail along with the 17 other designated national water trails and officials from NPS, River Management Society, River Network, US Fish and Wildlife Service, state DNRs, and other NGOs participated in the 3-day event at the University of Michigan.

Waterways across the US were represented -- from the Willamette River in Oregon to the Bronx River in New York, from the Bayou Teche in Louisiana to our own Rock River in Wisconsin and Illinois, and 14 others in between.

The forum provided sessions on the seven best management practices that embody the essence of the National Water Trails System: Recreation Opportunities, Education, Stewardship, Community Support, Public Information, Trail Maintenance and Planning. I had the privilege of serving on panels for stewardship and community support.

In Port Huron, Michigan we viewed a paddle craft launch that was designed to be universally accessible to extend recreational opportunities to persons



Universally accessible paddle craft launch on the Black River in Port Huron, Michigan.

whose use is restricted at existing launch facilities.

The city has found participation in paddling by residents and visitors has markedly increased since the accessible launch was installed.

Changing demographics and the need for planners to reach the future majority was the topic of the final plenary session. According to various studies, by 2050 whites will no longer be the majority in the US. Latino and Asian immigrants and the growth of current minority populations will dramatically alter the demographic profile. This growth will also increase the proportion of people under the age of 65, unlike forecasts for other developed countries. The approaches we use to reach, engage and serve our communities to encourage water resource conservation and provide water-based recreation must also change if we are to continue leading these efforts.

Greg Farnham, Coordinator
Rock River Trail Initiative
<http://rockrivertrail.com>

Testing the Waters: A Paddle and Probe Adventure

What a grand adventure the Rock River Coalition, along with a number of partners, are planning for next spring!

Testing the Waters: A Paddle and Probe Adventure will do something we have never been able to do before. We'll take a snapshot of water quality from the Rock's headwaters all the way into Illinois.

Not only will we gather water quality data from one end of the basin to the other, we will also hold a series of educational events.

This ambitious project is organized by the Rock River Coalition with support from the Rock River Stormwater Group, the Rock River Trail Initiative, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

We're just developing the planning team and would welcome new members.

Here's a little more about what we envision.

We expect the kick off to be on Memorial Day, 2016 followed by eleven days of paddling approximately 18 miles a day.

We plan on hiring college students that have backgrounds in water resources, education, geography and

communication to run the majority of the program. They will have three main three objectives, in addition to paddling the 146 river miles from the headwaters to Rockford:

1. Collect water quality data:
 - Collected continuously with a probe mounted in front of their paddle craft.
 - Collect periodic grab samples of the same data being collected by the probe plus nutrient samples which will be analyzed by local wastewater treatment plants.
 - Analyze and share the results on the web - in real time.
2. Educate Students:

The team of college students will host classroom programs in schools along the route. They'll connect with the canoers as they paddle who will discuss what they're seeing along the river and what water quality data is at the site. The classroom portion of the project will include a hands-on demonstration of the impact of runoff on our river's health.
3. Educate the Public:

The team of students will also run evening and weekend programs for the community.

These programs will highlight actions that families, businesses and individuals can take to protect our waters.

Of course everyone will be invited to paddle along with us as we travel down the river.

The automatic probes, "Current" are being developed by Eric Compas at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. This summer he has two graduate fellows testing the probes. For more information about the probes go to <http://currentdata.co/>.

Thanks to a DNR River Planning Grant, we have funds to purchase two probes, develop the interactive map, develop some materials about the program and pay for mileage for presentations.

If you are a club, chamber, PTO/PTA or other group and would like to learn more about this program contact Suzanne Wade at suzanne@rockrivercoalition.org. We would be glad to do a presentation.

The RRC is currently looking for sponsors for the program, if you are interested in helping fund the program contact Suzanne at the email above or call 608-334-4517.

Rock River Recovery – Quarterly Networking Forum

The Rock River Recovery (TMDL) Quarterly Forum

July 30 2015, 9:30 – 12:00

WI DNR South Central Service Center – Nevin Fish Hatchery, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd Fitchburg, WI

AGENDA

- 9:30 Networking
- 10:00 Welcome & Introductions
- 10:15 TMDL Implementation Updates
 - Implementation – Mark Riedel
 - Agriculture – Mike Gilbertson
 - Education & Outreach – Mark Riedel
 - Monitoring – Mike Sorge
 - MS4 – Eric Rortved
 - Waste Water – Amy Garbe
- 10:45 Education & Outreach Roundtable Discussions
 - Networking & Collaboration
 - Basin-wide Activities
 - Annual meeting
 - Testing the Waters a Paddle and Probe Adventure
 - Getting the word out (newsletter, etc.)
 - What else, What's missing
 - What would you like from WDNR? Sector Team?

11:45 Wrap-up

- Summary of Day
- WDNR Follow-up Tasks

12:00 Adjourn

For more information contact Mark Riedel marks.riedel@wisconsin.gov

Get notices about the Rock River Recovery effort and the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) by signing up for Govdelivery on the Rock River TMDL page of the DNR Website. <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/tmdls/rockriver/>



The Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed Build Canoe and Kayak Landing

A new canoe landing is underway along Badfish Creek, on the south end of the Badfish Creek Wildlife Area in Dane County. The Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed (FBCW), a chapter of RRC, are partnering with the Wisconsin DNR to improve public canoe and kayak access to the popular paddling route at the parking area on Old Stage Road, just north of the little town of Cooksville.

On June 1, 2015, members of FBCW, wildlife area Property Manager Andy Paulios, and a class of twenty students from Stoughton High School, led by environmental science teacher Amy Hermanson, cleared brush and downed trees upstream of the bridge, between the parking area and the creek, to create a path for paddlers.



Stoughton High School students joined FBCW members in clearing a trail to the water for a new canoe launch.

FBCW and Paulios also plan to reinforce the shoreline at the landing to reduce erosion during high water. The goal is to use an environmentally friendly, permeable material called ShoreMax to protect the shoreline.

FBCW will purchase the material with funds donated by their members Jim Danky and his wife Christine Schelshorn. Another project goal is to install a kiosk at the parking area where FBCW and DNR can post information and ecological notes about the creek. This would be funded by DNR.

As part of the workday, Paulios also led students on a tour of the wildlife area, introducing them along the way to the invasive honeysuckle, with a contest to see how quickly they could uproot the nasty shrubs.

Johnson Creek Watershed Alliance

In April, JCWA sponsored a logo contest asking participants to submit their artwork for our chapter's new logo. With direction and guidance from their teacher, Julie Gross, thirteen Johnson Creek High School students provided some exceptional art to choose from. After displaying the artwork for two weeks at the village hall and library, JCWA members voted on their top three choices. Jeremy Wagie of Farmington submitted the most popular entry. A gift card from Culver's and a free one-year membership to JCWA were presented to Jeremy by chapter President, Pete Hartz.



Logo Award Winner Jeremy Wagie being presented with a gift card from Culver's by Chapter President Peter Hartz

Our chapter Facebook page is done and features the new logo. Pat Giese has been working on updating the webpage to add the new logo as well as adding the Facebook "Like" button.

The chapter held a planning meeting in late June to make a project plan for a creek clean-up for Saturday, September 12th to coincide with the Rock River Sweep. Previous clean-up activities have focused on the creek beginning at the compost site. We hope to recruit ample volunteers to be able to go farther upstream this year.

An additional agenda item for this meeting is to explore the possibility of applying for one of two types of grants from Audubon and Toyota. A "planning" grant of up to \$5,000 is offered for organizations under-taking new initiatives while the regular grant is for those projects already well established. We will review the criteria for each as well as considering the August 15th deadline before deciding if we will pursue a grant this year for some element of the Conservancy Park along the creek.

Our Stream Monitors - Taking Care of Our Waters

The Rock River Coalition supports three main types of stream monitoring programs.

Pictured here are monitors being trained in our level one or baseline monitoring.

Many streams within the Rock River Basin lack sufficient water quality data to assist with decision-making and resource assessment. Volunteers participating in our baseline monitoring program help to expand our understanding of stream health for streams previously not included in any state or county agency water quality assessments.

These volunteers learn how to use simple techniques to measure dissolve oxygen levels, water temperature, water clarity, and water velocity. Volunteers also learn how to collect and identify macro-invertebrates – or aquatic insects that are visible without the use of magnification. Volunteers visit their stream site once a month from April to October. Volunteers enter their own data into the user friendly database hosted by the WDNR called the Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System.



Bob and Sue Volenec are measuring the width of Mud Creek in Jefferson County. They started stream monitoring this year and will be monitoring Mud Creek and Stony Brook. The monitoring they do at Mud Creek will help stream biologists determine if the creek has the parameters necessary to consider stocking brook trout.



Photo to the right: Nancy Sheehan, RRC's Stream Monitoring Coordinator, instructs citizen volunteers at a training on Koshkonong Creek in Cambridge.



Wes Dawson, Nancy Stanford, and Erik Hough learn how to identify insects they collected in the water at a stream monitoring training. The mix of insects found in streams help determine the quality of the water.

Friends of the Glacial Heritage Area Hard at Work (and Play)

From its first officially GHA-sponsored bird walk at Rome Pond in December 2012, to a repeat performance of its successful paddle on the Bark River scheduled



for Sat. July 11, the Friends of the Glacial Heritage Area have worked to promote silent-sports, outdoor recreational activities, health benefits and the boundless beauty of the surrounding landscape in which we live, work, play and visit.

The Friends have hosted work parties at Korth Park

developing hiking trails and clearing areas for prairie. This was followed by sowing native plant seeds at CamRock Park 2, clearing hiking trails and removing old tires and invasive species at Lake Ripley Preserve, and clearing water trails along the Bark River and Koshkonong Creek.

They have led paddles at Red Cedar Lake, Rock Lake, Crawfish River, Bark and Rock Rivers. In addition, paddle trips are scheduled during weekdays and weekends under the newly-formed Paddle Volunteer Corps for paddling enthusiasts interested in both water trail clean up and group paddles. Outings are scheduled for July 23, July 25 and August 28 at Rock Lake in Lake Mills as well as a fall paddle in the area. The latest schedule and contact information is available at glacialheritagearea.org.

Alongside the Jefferson-Dodge County Bird Walks group, the Friends of Glacial Heritage Area have explored the nesting, habitat and migratory patterns of birds and other wildlife at Dorothy Carnes Park in Fort Atkinson, Rome Pond in

Sullivan, Horicon Marsh in Dodge County, and Korth Park and Zeloski Marsh near Lake Mills. The walks are typically held the third weekend of every month and are scheduled about two weeks in advance. The latest information is always available at www.theropod.org/walks.html.

And The Friends of GHA have hosted seasonal forums with educators, speakers and artists at Korth Park and the Waterloo Trailhead facility. There is always plenty of work and fun to share.

Plans for the future include developing bike rides, loops and family-friendly excursions in the GHA. These include stops with volunteer naturalists, collaborating with the Jefferson County Parks Department to improve habitat and trails, working with UW-Whitewater educators to create vacation connections and resources easier to access and use. The group is also promoting a new handicapped accessible fishing pier on the Rock River in Watertown and getting more people to make the Glacial Heritage Area a conscious destination choice.

If you would like to share your ideas and suggestions or participate in any of these activities, please contact the Friends through their website, Facebook page or e-mail friendsofgha@gmail.com.

All are welcome.



Wading In: Stream Monitors Get Immersed in Fun and Learning

It was another great spring filled with meeting new volunteers. This year, we received 45 inquiries and trained 39 individuals to become volunteer stream monitors.

Our stream monitoring coordinator, Nancy Sheehan, along with our local monitoring coordinators held four training workshops in the Village of DeForest, Dunn Township, Cambridge and Clinton.



Some volunteers were new to the program while other volunteers "graduated" to Level 2 and Level 3 stream monitoring.

Catch a glimpse of the fun with these photo collages designed by Nancy Sheehan along with the photos on the previous page.



Photos by Nancy Sheehan

Town and Country RC&D to Close Its Doors

by Lisa Conley

Town and Country Resource Conservation and Development Council's Board of Directors voted to disband the Jefferson-based organization at our spring board meeting. We are most grateful to all our past donors, partners, volunteers and staff for making our work possible.

We have served as a key partner and/or an incubator for innovative projects and organizations, such as the Farm Fresh Atlas of Southeastern Wisconsin, Slow Money Wisconsin, Wisconsin Urban Wood, Eat Here Eat Well Farm to School of Greater Jefferson County, Water Star Wisconsin and the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium. We have supported efforts to slow the spread of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species through the Wheel Against the Weeds educational bicycle ride, and the Clean Boats, Clean Water program.

We have been partners in workshops for our area's sustainability, such as a Transition Towns training

workshop, Natural Step Study Circles in Oconomowoc and Wauwatosa, Permaculture Design Certification Workshops, Emerald Ash Borer Workshops for local communities, and a workshop and public meetings to discuss cooperative ownership as an option for Countryside Home Nursing Center.

We were a founding partner of Wisconsin Water Conservation Coalition, and worked with local communities to pass ordinances limiting lawn phosphorus fertilizer. We have mentored local institutions to help them work with farmers to provide seasonal local food to their clients and employees – including Fort Health Care and Trek Bicycle.

We provided a consulting forester to plan a sustainable timber harvest with woodlot owners to utilize ash trees infected with emerald ash borer. We have been a water issue advocate at the state level – writing letters, attending hearings, and served as a member of the SE Wisconsin Regional Water Quantity Advisory Committee

(SEWRPC)

Our grazing program helped farmers throughout Southeastern Wisconsin learn to better feed their animals on pasture, providing better water quality and healthier farm produce for our area's citizens.

The loss of staff and program funding from the federal RC&D program, which impacted all RC&D's nationwide, and the closing of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture's grazing grant program, during a time of economic downturn, were financial blows that would have required a rebuild of the organization with a focus on fund raising instead of program delivery.

We have chosen instead to recognize that it is time to celebrate all we have done and ask our members to increase their support for the good work of other nonprofits we have partnered with in the past, such as the Rock River Coalition, Tall Pines Conservancy, and Slow Money Wisconsin.

Contact for the organization is admin@taocrd.com.

Thank You Andy, Kris and Gail

Three important staff members are leaving the University of Wisconsin Extension Service for other opportunities.

They have been important partners, and friends, to the Rock River Coalition and we will miss them.

Andy Yench, UWEX Natural Resources and Basin Educator, is now the new lands manager for the Lynden Sculpture Garden in River Hills Wisconsin.

He is hoping to be able to mix his love of education and of land management in his new position.

Andy's ongoing efforts and support made many of our shared activities and events possible. He was a key organizer of Rock River Recovery events including the Education Sector Team meetings, the annual meetings and the forums.

Mark Riedel of the DNR puts how we all feel about the hole Andy will leave: "We will truly miss Andy's "can-do" attitude, wonderful suggestions and insights, and warm and friendly demeanor."

Gail Epping Overholt, previously the UWEX Natural Resources Educator in Milwaukee is taking over the challenges of becoming UWEX's Coastal Training Program Coordinator at Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve in Superior.

Kris Stepenuck, Water Action Volunteer Coordinator, is leaving for a faculty position at the University of Vermont (UVM) in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

She will have a shared appointment among UVM, Sea Grant and Extension, and will be supervising staff of Vermont's volunteer stream monitoring program, as well as carrying out outreach and research related to water resources.

She hopes to maintain strong connections with WAV long into the future.

The RRC wishes them all good luck and success in their new endeavors.

It's hard to say good-bye to people who have been so important to us, but we know they will do great things in their new positions.

State Budget Key Provisions that will Impact the Rock River Basin

The following are key budget items that will be felt in the Rock River Basin, making it more difficult for us to meet our mission of protecting and improving the environmental, economic, cultural and recreational resources of the Rock River Basin.

- Elimination of cost-effective capacity grants to nonprofits: these grants include funding for groups like the Wisconsin Lakes and the River Alliance. These dollars supported projects like maintenance of the Ice Age Trail. Though the Joint Finance Committee restored 90% of this funding, Governor Walker eliminated all funding with a line-item veto.
- Clean Water Cuts: The budget included a number of provisions that impact our clean water, including: the elimination of the Fertilizer Research Council and funding for its innovative manure management studies; funding cuts to county Soil and Water Conservation Departments who work with farmers to reduce runoff pollution; and funding reductions for nutrient management plans. Originally, the cuts to the county Conservation Departments were much larger, but the Joint Finance Committee restored some of those cuts.

- Attacks Local Control on Water: The Joint Finance Committee added a budget amendment that removed the authority for counties to adopt stronger protections than the state minimum on shore lands to protect water.
- Elimination of Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB): The WEEB was established in 1990 to provide environmental education programs in schools and communities across the state. The budget originally proposed eliminating the funding for the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education as well, but the Joint Finance Committee restored this.
- Staffing Cuts to Department of Natural Resources (DNR): The budget severely cut the DNR, resulting in 66 staff position cuts, with targets to the Bureau of Scientific Services and Communication and Education. These and other consistent attacks on science will be felt for decades to come.
- Elimination of Bike and Walking Funding: The budget removed all state funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program, which funds programs like bike lanes, sidewalks, Safe Routes to School, etc.
- Repeal of Complete Streets: this program requires all new state-funded roads be built complete with bike lanes and sidewalks. This ensures that all users are able to safely use the road.
- Attacks on Forestry Program: The budget reduces oversight of the Managed Forest Land Program by cutting 4 full time staff and eliminating the requirement for DNR staff to approve cutting notices filed by Cooperative Foresters. It also undermines the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) reviews to document rare or declining species, high-quality or rare natural communities, and unique or significant natural features prior to timber sales.

Additionally, the Joint Finance Committee removed Dane County's authority to set their own water quality standards and prohibited standards from being more protective than state law.

Note: this column was derived primarily from the Sierra Club's website: <http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/blog/2015/07/budget-rollback-cuts-and-environmental-onslaught>

Out of sight, but not out of our waterways

Your dog poops...you're hiking through the woods... you're hot and sweaty and don't want to carry dog poop for the rest of your hike, yuck...no one is around...what do you do?



Photo credit: Thomas Machnitzki

Pick it up! What's even more disgusting than picking up after your four-legged friend is finding out what dog poop adds to our water:

- Nitrogen and phosphorous - just like grass clippings, pet waste adds nutrients to the water. Excess nutrients promote weed and algae growth which depletes oxygen in the water that aquatic plants, fish and other wildlife need to survive.
- Diseases and viruses that are harmful to humans like salmonellosis, e. coli, coccidian and campylobacteriosis.

One gram of dog poop contains 23 million fecal bacteria! That's a lot of bacteria, especially considering that there are between 70 and 80 million dogs in the US. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that for a small watershed

up to 20 square miles, two to three days of waste from 100 dogs is enough to temporarily close a bay to swimming and fishing. Consequently the US EPA has deemed pet waste a non-point source pollutant, in the same category as oil and chemical spills.

If that isn't alarming enough, according to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), pet waste can deposit roundworm and other parasite eggs that live in the soil for years. If a human or pet comes in contact with this soil, they risk infection.

There is simply no way to get rid of dog poop besides picking it up. Left anywhere, dog poop usually makes its way into our water through stormwater runoff and can leave behind harmful parasites in the soil. So next time you go on a walk, bring a bag with you, pick up your dog's poop, tie the bag and place it in the trash. Your neighbors will thank you and so will the environment!

This article is brought to you by the Rock River Stormwater Group, a coalition of ten communities and UW-Whitewater committed to improving the Rock River's health.

Thank YOU for helping to Renew the Rock by picking up after your dog. Learn more at www.RenewTheRock.com.



Visit the Conservation Tent at Farm Technology Days

Rock River Coalition Board and some of our members will join other Dane County watershed group members at the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Booth at the Farm Technology Days being held on August 25-27 at the Statz Brothers Farm near Sun Prairie.

If you have never attended this eye opening event, take a day and join us. We will have two interactive models that will help demonstrate the impact of runoff to our streams and lakes.

If you like to talk to the public about water quality and what individuals can do, consider taking one of the 2-3 hours slots at the booth.

Send an email to suzanne@rockrivercoalition.org if interested.

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days

August 25-27 2015

OPEN

For Business Once a Year

Statz Bros. Inc.
5964 Town Hall Drive | Sun Prairie, WI 53590

- More than 600 Exhibitors
- New Innovation Square
- Field Demonstrations

Tuesday 9am-5pm - Wednesday 9am-5pm - Thursday 9am-4pm
Thank You to our Platinum Sponsors!

Become a RRC Member

In addition to supporting RRC work, members receive newsletters, notices of conferences, and special events. To become a member, complete the following:

Name _____

Title _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

I am a member of _____ Chapter.

Memberships Fees

Individual	\$ 25
Family	\$ 35
Student/Senior Citizen	\$ 15
Classroom	\$ 25
Affiliates*	\$ 50
Municipal**	\$125
Corporate	\$ 200

*Includes small businesses, organizations, lake districts, small municipalities and individual municipal departments
**Covers entire municipality including all departments, administrative staff and elected officials

Any donation or membership of \$150 or more will be recognized and linked to your website from our website: www.rockrivercoalition.org

Donors of \$500 or greater will receive an ad in this newsletter. Check out our website for more information.

Tax Deductible Donations

Amount	Purpose
	General Support
	Citizen Monitoring
	Other:

Donations are greatly appreciated and can be targeted towards specific projects.

Please mail this completed form with check to:

Rock River Coalition
864 Collins Rd
Jefferson, WI 53549

or register and pay online with PayPal at:
www.rockrivercoalition.org/membership.asp

Congratulations RRC Award Winners

At the Annual Meeting the RRC presented Rock River Basin Protector Awards to: Rick Eilertson the



Environmental Engineer for the City of Fitchburg, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, the City of Beloit, the Rock River Trail Initiative and the Director of the UWW Institute for Water Business Linda Reid.

We also give awards to our "Friends" who have helped the Coalition as an organization. Shown in the picture to the left, are our Friends Award winners Scott Taylor, Jim Koepke, the Rock River TMDL Group, and Joleen Stinson along with our President Patricia Cicero.

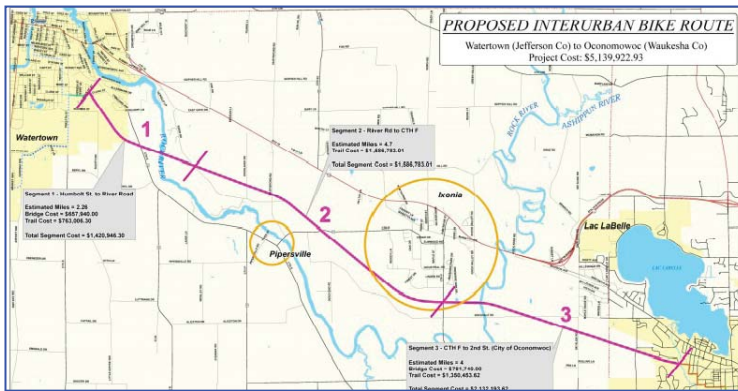
We can't give awards out to everyone who has been important in protecting the Rock River over the years, so here's a big thank you to everyone who takes steps every day to improve this wonderful place where we live, work and play.

Coming Soon – The Interurban Bike Trail!

The Interurban Recreation Trail, a new multi-use bike trail is planned to link the City of Watertown to the City of Oconomowoc via the existing We Energies right-of-way corridor that parallels the Rock River. The proposed route along the corridor is 10.96 miles. This trail will connect to the popular network of trails that begins west of the City of Oconomowoc and runs all the way to the lakefront in Milwaukee.

It extends this network west to the City of Watertown and also provides connections to the Glacial Drumlin Trail, Glacial River Trail and Wild Goose State Trail.

When the trail is complete the Rock River Basin will have a well-connected bicycle transportation system that links a variety of communities and activity generators such as parks, schools, employment centers, restaurants, downtowns and shopping areas.



A safe, cohesive multi-modal transportation system such as this can accommodate bicycling, walking and other forms of transportation as a feature of a desirable and livable region.

It will support healthy and active lifestyles and allow for alternatives to driving while enriching the small town lifestyle of the region.



A trail such as this can attract tourists by fostering community vitality and a special sense of place.

This will in turn attract talented employees and new businesses while helping to grow existing businesses.

To make a donation to help build the trail, as BLM, pictured at left, did. Please contact the Jefferson County Parks Department, 311 S. Center Avenue, Room 204 Jefferson, WI 53549.

You can call 920-674-7260, or email maryn@jeffersoncountywi.gov for more information.

Welcome Tabby Davis

The Rock River Coalition Board is very pleased to welcome our first student board member, Tabby Davis. Tabby is studying Biological Systems Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was active in agricultural clubs in high school and is interested in promoting sustainable agriculture and improving water quality.



The student board member position was created to bring in new ideas and perspectives to the organization and provide an opportunity for students to learn more about environmental nonprofit organizations. The new position will also help the organization reach out to a younger generation interested in local issues related to our Mission. We are happy to have Tabby on our board this academic year!



No Fall Newsletter

We are sorry to announce that we will not be producing a fall newsletter. The increased cost of printing and mailing, along with our decision to put more funds into our stream monitoring program, mean we will only produce three printed newsletters this year.

We also anticipate that we will do three printed newsletters next year. Most likely in January, April and August.

If you are receiving a copy and are not a member or a volunteer, the RRC has been covering your cost. Please consider a membership or donation to help us fund this newsletter and other organizational costs.

Long-term we are looking at moving to two electronic newsletters and two printed newsletters a year, but no decisions have been made. We would appreciate hearing from our members regarding this issue.

Remember you can sign-up to receive this electronically by sending an email to info@rockrivercoalition.org. Thank you.

Brew with a View

Korth Park, Lake Mills
August 20, 5 to 8 pm

This fundraiser for Jefferson County Parks features live music, food, and Tyranena Brewing Company beer. Visit Tyranena.com for more information.